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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Schools receive energy grants

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam continues to make small improvements to its schools, and will now improve energy efficiency through a \$177,396 grant from the Department of Energy Resources.

According to a press release from Mayor William Sapelli's office, the funding will address a number of issues at Agawam Junior High School and Agawam High School. Both buildings continue to have numerous needs for improvements and the school district has continued to apply for funds through the Massachusetts

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Animals blessed at annual event

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Sacred Heart Parish held its sixth annual blessing of the animals, where people were able to bring their pets to be blessed by Father Steve Amo. The blessing required masks and six feet of social distancing.

A large group of people showed up with their pets and gathered around in a circle while staying six feet or more apart. Father Amo stood in front of the crowd and read a passage from the bible, then said a prayer and sprinkled each pet in attendance with holy water.

"We hold the blessing every year, we typically do it inside so we had to adjust this year but we were able to hold it," Father Amo said. "Someone here today came from Springfield, they said they typically attend one in their town but that they didn't have it this year. It didn't matter if they were from out of town, we wanted to hold this for everyone."

The church held an 11 a.m. mass, it was held inside and was

also live streamed for those staying at home. The church held the blessing of the animals was held at noon in honor of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. The blessing celebrates the important place that pets hold in families and their lives, and reminds people of the blessing of all God's creatures. Each dog in attendance stayed sitting with their family and each pet got a sprinkle of holy water by Father Amo.

While talking to a few families after the blessing, another family arrived and Father Amo said that they could stay in the car. He proceeded to give the two dogs a prayer and blessing of their own before they left again. All pets were kept on leashes and the church allowed any children that didn't have pets to bring their stuffed animals to be blessed. One couple in attendance brought their two dogs to be blessed, as their typical church didn't hold a blessing of the animals this year.

The blessing had a fairly big

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Jack Horky and his son Jeff Horky brought their dog Sophie to be blessed.

PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

Boys soccer kicks off



Vinny Romeo makes a quick touch as he moves up the field with the ball. Agawam boys soccer defeated Holyoke in the season opener for both teams. More photos are on page 7.

PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

Walsh resigns post at Holyoke Soldiers' Home

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – In a move considered a surprise given his fights in court, Holyoke Soldiers Home Superintendent Bennett Walsh has resigned from the position, just a few days before the Board of Trustees were set to meet again and possibly remove Walsh from the position.

Walsh was originally fired in June by Gov. Charlie Baker.

Baker cited a report by a Boston attorney which among the many faults, found Walsh and his medical director at fault for a massive COVID-19 outbreak that resulted in the deaths of 76 residents of the home.

Walsh blamed lack of resources and support from the state and was defiant after originally being suspended by the Board of Directors back in April. The Board of Trustees attempted to fire Walsh,

but Walsh stopped the proceedings, winning an injunction in court stating that he could not have a fair hearing during the COVID conditions.

Following the Baker-led dismissal, Walsh went to court and a judge found Baker did not have the right to fire Walsh. Walsh was reinstated to his administrative leave status and the Board of Directors were preparing to discuss him on Monday, Oct. 5.

Walsh then resigned on Friday, Oct. 2.

Walsh is facing neglect charges levied by Attorney General Maura Healey. Healey launched her own investigation into the deaths at the Soldiers Home and found Walsh and his medical director David Clinton, responsible for part of the outbreak. Both were indicted by a grand jury on 10 criminal counts. Walsh is being accused of criminal negligence.

Walsh was appointed as the

superintendent of the home in 2016. His predecessor, Paul Barabani, resigned and retired due to a lack of funding and staffing. Several organizations have called for more funding for the home and for renovations and improvements. On Monday night, the Agawam City Council even approved a resolution supporting more funding for the Soldiers Home. Agawam is host to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery, a regional burial ground for veterans and their spouses.

The Oct. 5 meeting was cancelled due to the lack of need to discuss the issue. A search will get underway to name a new superintendent.

Walsh will still have to answer to the charges he is facing in criminal court. His uncle, former District Attorney William Bennett, represented him as he fought the actions by the state. All lawsuits fighting his dismissal have been

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Church to hold tag sale

AGAWAM – There will be a tag sale at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., on Oct. 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be something for everyone- clothing and accessories, toys, games, books, household items and more. Face coverings must be worn and social distancing guidelines will be in place.

STCC observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Springfield Technical Community College has scheduled virtual events open to students and the public.

On Thursday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m., Rosalia Rivera of the AboutCONSENT™ podcast will speak in a Zoom Webinar titled “Telling Our Stories to Create Change.” Rivera is an internationally recognized consent educator who will offer insight into the connections between

childhood sexual abuse and young adult dating violence. Her talk also will address how students can play a role in supporting safe and healthy relationships in the “new normal” of the COVID-19 college experience.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m., Rivera will give a talk titled “Breaking Barriers, Breaking the Silence / Rompiendo Barreras, Rompiendo



Rosalia Rivera

el Silencio, a Café Con Leche Conversation.” This event is part of STCC’s recognition of Latinx heritage month.

Rivera has turned past traumatic experiences into a powerful voice and platform for healing and social change. Based on her personal story, Rivera will discuss breaking the silence around childhood sexual abuse and interpersonal

violence, and dig into the roots of gender stereotypes that impact healthy sexuality, family culture and healthy relationships within the Latinx community.

Both events are co-sponsored by #STCCWeCan (formerly the Be Empowered Project), the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Hispanic Association of Higher Education (HAHE), and Title IX. Contact cbreunig@stcc.edu for questions.

To register for the Zoom events or for more information, visit stcc.edu/resources/stccwecan.

Photography show announced

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library are very excited to announce their First Open Juried Virtual Photography Show. We are not able to have our annual show at the library, but we want to continue to share the outstanding work of area photographers. The show benefits the Agawam Public Library and provides a platform to recognize and encourage these photographers. Awards totaling \$1340 will be determined by judging done on January 13. Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both well recognized photographers, will be the judges.

The show is divided into four categories of photography: creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. The entry fee is \$25 per entry up to and including November 30, 2020. Starting December 1, the fee will be \$30. If we have not received sufficient entries by January 1, 2021, the show will be cancelled and all fees returned.

All images must be original, made by the photographer, captured by film or digitally, and cannot be previous entries in our show. For the show’s Prospectus and Entry Form, please visit www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.

The Haunted Woods: A Drive-Thru experience

AGAWAM – Heritage Woods Senior Living will be holding a free spooky drive through, “The Haunted Woods,” on Friday, Oct. 30 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 462 Main Street, Agawam. Visitors

will get to drive through haunted scenes, complete with live actors. Fun for all ages. For more information call 413-786-9704, or email nicole.wallace@genesishc.com.

Freedom Credit Union offers shredding day for area residents

SPRINGFIELD – Freedom Credit Union is pleased once again to offer the opportunity for western Massachusetts residents to securely purge unwanted paperwork. In cooperation with PROSHRED® Springfield, Freedom is offering free Community Shred Days at two of its branches on Friday, Oct. 16:

9–10 a.m.—Northampton Branch, 226 King Street

10:30–11:30 a.m.—Greenfield Branch, 74 Main Street

The public is invited to bring old bills, bank statements, tax returns and other sensitive documents for free, quick and secure on-site shredding. Members and non-members alike may bring up to five file boxes or paper bags (per vehicle) to the events. Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be in effect. For information about the full range of services offered by Freedom Credit Union, visit freedom.coop.

Deadline set for connection installation

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam’s Department of Public Works has announced that Friday, Nov. 6 will be the last day to apply for road opening permits for the installation of water, sewer, or drain connections that have to be installed by the

Town.

All connections applied for after the deadline will be installed in the spring of 2021. This notice does not apply to connection which have been previously installed to the property line of an existing property.

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Morgan-Sullivan Bridge to close for next two weekends

AGAWAM/WEST SPRINGFIELD – MassDOT will close the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge to vehicular traffic on the following weekends:

- From 8:00 PM on Friday, October 9 through 6:00 AM on Monday, October 12
- From 8:00 PM on Friday, October 16 through 6:00 AM on Monday, October 19

The bridge closures are necessary for crews to safely erect structural steel. The west side of the bridge will reopen to vehicles (one lane in each direction) at the end of each weekend closure. Variable messaging boards will be placed in advance of this work.

Pedestrians

The sidewalk on the west side of the bridge will remain open for pedestrians during the bridge closure. Police detail will be present to escort pedestrians during

construction.

Vehicles

During the bridge closures, the following signed detours will be in place for vehicles (see detour map):

- From Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147) in West Springfield to Main Street (Rt. 159) in Agawam:
- Head east on Memorial Drive (Rt. 147). At the Memorial Avenue Rotary, take the first exit toward Rt. 5 South/Longmeadow and merge onto Rt. 5 South. Continue for 1 mile and take the exit toward Rt. 57 West/Agawam/Southwick. At the traffic circle, take the first exit onto the Rt. 57 West ramp toward Agawam. Continue on Rt. 57 West for 1 mile and take the exit toward Rt. 159 North. Continue on Main Street (Rt. 159).
- From Suffield Street (Rt. 75) in Agawam to Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147) in West

Springfield:

- Head south on Suffield Street (Rt. 175). Turn left to merge onto Rt. 57 East toward I-91/Springfield/Rt. 5 and continue for 2 miles. Use the left lane to take the Rt. 5 North exit toward West Springfield/Holyoke. At the traffic circle, take the third exit onto the Rt. 5 North ramp to West Springfield and merge onto Rt. 5 North. Continue on Rt. 5 North for 1 mile and take the Route 147 West exit toward West Springfield/Agawam. At the Memorial Avenue Rotary, take the third exit onto Rt. 147 West. Continue on Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147).
- From Main Street (Rt. 159) in Agawam to Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147) in West Springfield:
- Head south on Main Street (Rt. 159). Use the right lane to merge onto Rt. 57 East via the ramp to Rt. 5/I-91/Springfield

and continue for 1.5 miles. Use the left lane to take the Rt. 5 North exit toward West Springfield/Holyoke. At the traffic circle, take the third exit onto the Rt. 5 North ramp to West Springfield and merge onto Rt. 5 North. Continue on Rt. 5 North for 1 mile and take the Route 147 West exit toward West Springfield/Agawam. At the Memorial Avenue Rotary, take the third exit onto Rt. 147 West. Continue on Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147).

For more information about the project, please visit the project website at: www.mass.gov/morgan-sullivan-bridge-replacement-project. Please send any questions or comments to the project team at: MorganSullivanBridge@dot.state.ma.us. For media inquiries, please contact MassDOT Communications Director Jacquelyn Goddard at Jacquelyn.Goddard@dot.state.ma.us.

Dept. of Public Works offers tips for fall yard clean-ups

Yard Waste days are here!

In the fall, dead leaves typically collect in roads, and in moderate rainfall events can be washed into/on top of storm drains. These leaves then block or reduce the conveyance of water into the drains and increase local flood risk. To prevent flooding in your neighborhood, regularly clean leaves and other materials away from the storm drains.

Please do not blow leaves and grass clippings onto our sidewalks, streets, and into storm drains, they eventually make their way into our streams, rivers and lakes. These materials add excess nutrients that cause harm to our water resources, such as potentially-toxic algae blooms. Proper use or disposal of yard waste will help to avoid these contaminated flows.

Bag It, Don't Blow It!

Never blow leaves or grass clippings from your yard into streets, sidewalks or storm drains.

Street sweeping services are designed to handle natural leaf and debris removal on public streets. Leaves and grass clippings

blown in the streets disrupt the efficiency of the street sweeping process.

Bag leaves and yard waste for the town's curbside collection program.

Compost It, Don't Blow It!

Fall leaves are an important ingredient to a compost pile. Without them, a compost pile may become too wet and create odors.

Layer compost post with equal parts brown (dry leaves) to green (food waste/ grass clippings) materials. It's the mixture of the two, the carbon to nitrogen ratio, that activates hard working soil microbes.

Mulch It, Don't Blow It!

Turn your yard waste into mulch and leave it on the ground. Yard waste acts as a natural fertilizer.

If additional fertilization is needed, choose a slow release fertilizer. Slow released fertilizers are more controlled, releasing nitrogen more slowly, reducing the change of nutrients leaching into groundwater in areas such as sandy soils.

Residential fall yard waste collections

will take place on the following weeks as noted on the 2020 route collection schedule.

Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, weeds, shrub trimmings, and brush or limbs under 3" in diameter

Limbs under 3" in diameter must be tied in bundles, no greater than 3' in length, weighing no more than 40lbs

Yard waste may be placed in a 30 gallon 2-ply kraft paper bag

Yard waste may be placed in trash containers, no larger than 32 gallon, with handles. Containers must be labeled as Yard Waste to be collected

Bags and barrels may not exceed 40 lbs in weight for collection. Bags or barrels in excess of 40 lbs or too heavy to be lifted by one person will be left behind

Wet broken bags, due to the weather, are not the responsibility of the hauler to clean up. It is encouraged that residents cover bags during rain events to prevent broken bags

A Week Streets will be collected on their recycling collection day on the following weeks:

October 19-23
November 2-6
November 16-20
November 30-December 4

B Week Streets will be collected on their recycling collection day on the following weeks:

October 12-16
October 26-30
November 9-13
November 23-28 (holiday week)



Library offers Boston Children's Museum weekend passes

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library announces the immediate availability of Boston Children's Museum weekend passes, graciously provided by the Friends of the Agawam Library. These are available to reserve by Agawam and Feeding Hills residents 18 and older, with a CW/MARS library card in good standing. Each pass is valid only for the date listed and admits 4 people free of charge.

After receiving a library discount coupon from the library, patrons must then reserve their visit online with Boston Children's Museum.

New Instructions for Patrons:

- Visit <https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/ticketing>
- Review the directions for timed tickets
- Click on the "Discount Programs" & drop down arrow

- Click on "Half Price Library Timed Ticket" to book
- The date on the Library Discount Coupon must match the date of the patron's visit.
- Once arriving at the Museum, visitors will proceed to the Admissions Scanning Station with their online reservation and the date specific Library Discount Coupon received from the library. Patron can present these digitally on a hand held device or as a paper print out.
- Patrons with questions about the online ordering system should contact Orders@BostonChildrensMuseum.org

As venues reopen to the public, it is important to contact the zoo or museum you wish to visit, as each one has a different process for securing a time slot. Please visit the library's website at www.agawamlibrary.org for availability.

Town will offer shredding event starting next month

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam has announced that it will host a free document shredding event for residents on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street.

Mayor William Sapelli is pleased to offer residents this event at such challenging time due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"Identity theft is widespread," said Sapelli. "It is important to destroy any document that may contain information that would make it easy for a criminal to steal your identity. Residents should take advantage of this event and shred anything that may contain a Social Security number, bank account numbers, credit card numbers or other sensitive data. We also ask that you follow all Valley Green Shredding COVID-19 safety protocols."

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that as many as 10 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Identity theft starts with the misuse of your personal identifying information. Documents such as old bank statements, legal documents, medical records, tax records, receipts/invoices,

utility bills, canceled checks and statements containing credit card numbers, birth dates, signatures, passwords and pin numbers are all items that should be shredded to avoid identity theft. For more information on how to protect your identity, visit the Federal Trade Commission website at www.consumer.ftc.gov

Valley Green Shredding will provide an on-site mobile shred unit to securely and confidentially shred residential documents for free. Residents are asked to limit their confidential documents to 3 standard size boxes or 3 recycling bins. All 3 ring binders and binder clips should be removed. Paper clips, staples, spiral bound notebooks are all acceptable. Due to COVID-19, safety protocols will be in place. Participants will be required to wear a mask, remain in their vehicle, and place all materials in the trunk, bed trunk, or cargo area of the vehicle. Staff will not accept material from the front seats of the vehicle. If you are sick or awaiting COVID test results, please do not attend the event.

For additional information please contact the Department of Public Works at 821-0624.

Virtual Pioneer Valley Symphony pass now available through the library

AGAWAM — The Pioneer Valley Symphony is preparing for their upcoming 82nd season and for now they will be completely virtual...and free of charge. In the past, the Agawam Library has received passes valid for 2 adult and 2 children, however this year we have been provided with the code LIBRARYCOMP82, which will allow free access to any PVS "Presentations" or "Discovery Series" online event.

The code may be redeemed by visiting the website www.pvsoc.org, going to

the TICKETS page and then entering the code at checkout. This will make the total value due \$0, and a confirmation email will be received with the access link to the event.

The PVS operates almost entirely due to the generosity of the community. Donations to support their education program, youth programming or subscription concert series may be made via their website, or by check mailed to PVS, 91 Main St. Greenfield, MA 01301.

ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 464 calls for service from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

There were no arrests recorded during the last week.

Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Can I get Social Security with my municipal pension?

By Russell Gloor

**SOCIAL
SECURITY
MATTERS**

Dear Rusty: I retired from a municipal Fire Department seven years ago at the age of 54. It is a private pension, and I was exempt from Social Security while I was working. I receive about \$50,000 per year in pension benefits. I recently got a letter from Social Security saying I needed eight more credits of work to qualify for Social Security benefits. I was wondering if I worked two more years, paying into Social Security, would I qualify for benefits, since I am on a municipal pension? Signed: Retired Fireman

Dear Retired Fireman: Although your municipal Fire Department pension would reduce your Social Security benefit, it will not eliminate it. So, if you work and earn those additional eight credits you will be entitled to a Social Security benefit.

Because of your non-covered municipal pension your Social Security benefit will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision, which affects anyone who has a pension from an employer which did not participate in Social Security where neither the employee nor the employer paid into Social Security. WEP uses a special benefit computation formula which will result in you getting a smaller benefit, but you will, nevertheless, get some benefit amount if you have accumulated at least 40 quarters of Social Security credit. Note that your Social Security benefit amount will be further reduced if you claim it at age 62, or any age prior to your full retirement age.

You earn Social Security credits by working in a job where you pay FICA payroll taxes on your earnings, and you can earn a maximum of four Social Security credits per year. For 2020, you'll earn one credit for each \$1,410 of earnings, up to a maximum of four credits for the year, but you don't need to work the entire year to get the credits. For example, if you work yet in 2020 and earn \$5,640, which is four times \$1,410, you'll earn the maximum four credits for this year.

You need a total of 40 quarter credits to become eligible for Social Security, and those credits never expire, so even old credits earned before your Fire Department career still count. And, even if small, this would be a benefit you have earned by contributing to Social Security, so there's little reason not to pursue it by gaining the needed additional credits.

This article is intended for informa-

SECURITY | page 5

Substance of the first 2020 presidential debate...



Letters to the Editor

Thanks for great customer service

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude to all local businesses that provide delivery and curbside pick-up.

For example, Geissler's Customer Service is outstanding as their staff bring out items ordered cheerfully and gracefully. I am thankful for this service

and sense of community. Hats off to all our local businesses and their employees!

Sincerely,

Therese Clifford

Health and safety most important for students

Dear Editor:

Yes, I want all of our children back in school. I want nothing more for us to be all-in, having normal school days. Trust me, as a parent of 3 children in this district (one who is a senior in high school), I feel gut-wrenching sadness for all that these kids are losing. I relate to the parents and the overall challenges that they face; because I am one of them!

That said, my job as a School Committee member is not to come to the table with preconceived views or personal opinions based on what is best for my family, but to do my job and to represent my constituents. I research and ask questions prior to every vote that I cast. I read and respond to every email or communication directed to me. I vote based on feedback from principals, teachers, concerned parents and my constit-

uency. My votes do not represent any personal decision that I will make along the way for my family.

I still believe that we need more transparency, better messaging home to families (including the number of cases at each school) and the prompt establishment of COVID response teams. I still believe that despite the teachers' valiant attempts (and I know how diligently they are working to deliver to a 3-fold platform of in-school, hybrid and remote students!), it remains true that not all students are accessing rich curriculum, technical difficulties continue to be a burden and attendance count is still a work in progress. I do support the administration team, but that does not mean that I should not challenge them or respectfully ask questions.

I have yet to have a day go by that I am not contacted by

a teacher, parent, or student. I refuse to compromise health and safety, but I do want to continue to strive to give all of our students the best and most equitable opportunities for a school year that is reflective of the strong academic values that Agawam has always upheld.

Do I believe that things will get better? Of course I do! I devote countless time and diligence to the work that I have the privilege to do as an elected school committee member because I believe that.

As always, I am open to conversation and questions from any of you and encourage you to continue to reach out to me at wrua@agawamed.org. I do not respond via social media. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Wendy Rua
Agawam School
Committee Member



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Anne of Feeding Hills

By Sadie Parrotta

At the intersection on Springfield Street in the heart of Feeding Hills, there's a bronze-cast statue of a woman sat with a young girl. It was sculpted by Mico Kaufman, a Romanian sculptor whose world-famous work lives in cities all across Massachusetts where he immigrated to in 1951. In our town, his art depicts the moment when Anne Sullivan finally suc-

ceeded in teaching Helen Keller her first word, "water," by finger-spelling into her hand.

In the spirit of Halloween, this week's article is an interview with a ghost: Anne Sullivan. In case you don't remember learning about her in elementary school (or in case you never got around to watching the 1962 film "The Miracle Worker"), here's the abridged version to catch you up to speed: In 1887, Anne Sullivan became the teacher to Helen Keller. Keller, at the time, was a deaf-blind child whose able-bodied family members had failed to bridge the communication barrier between themselves and their daughter.

Anne Sullivan was summoned from the Perkins School for the Blind in order to teach Helen Keller language in a way that was accessible to her. Interestingly enough, this union was made possible by Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, who was teaching deaf children to read lips and speak at the time. Bell did not, however, believe in the use of sign language, which is ultimately what gave Helen Keller the ability to express herself.

Helen Keller would go on to become a famous academic, activist, and co-founded the American Civil Liberties Union. Anne Sullivan would remain her closest

companion until Sullivan's death on October 20th, 1936. It's a story that beautifully showcases just what a human being is capable of accomplishing when given the proper tools. But it's also a story that's firmly cemented in American culture. Anne Sullivan, in the American consciousness, blips into existence when she arrives at the Keller house in Alabama and fades into obscurity sometime after Helen Keller learns the word "water." I'd argue that Anne Sullivan's own personal history rivals Helen Keller's in terms of interest. Of course, since she was an Agawam girl, she's got the home-field

ANNE | page 5

Yesterday's Hometown News

Opinion

ANNE ■ from page 4

advantage.

Since this week's story is such a classic history report subject, we'll start like all history reports do: Anne Sullivan Macy was born on April 14, 1866, in Feeding Hills. She was born Johanna Mansfield Sullivan to a pair of Irish immigrants who had fled Ireland during the Great Famine. Most other Irish immigrants that landed in the Boston Bay didn't stray too far from the city, but the Sullivans chose to push onward and settled in what is consistently described across the internet as a "village in western Massachusetts." Maybe they had family already established in the area. Maybe they heard "good things" about what was then a farming town on the up-tick in Massachusetts.

If we use our imaginations, and visit the Agawam Historical Association's website, we can imagine the version of Agawam that the Sullivans arrived over 120 years ago. Herds of cattle would've still been feeding in the hills where Anne Sullivan's commemorative statue now stands. Here's another unique Agawam first: America's first cattle drive began right here and stretched to the Quincy Market in Boston. Perhaps it was a fateful encounter outside of Faneuil Hall that the Sullivans first learned about Agawam. There were a handful of winding dirt roads across Agawam and Feeding Hills, and a population less than the current number of attendees at Agawam High School. There were three inns, three churches, nine different schools, and a saw mill at Silver Lake. The Captain Charles Leonard House was still operational. The Thomas and Esther Smith House had only been just sold to the Park family, who would remain in it until 1910.

Unfortunately, the Sullivans were not fortunate to enjoy the harvest of the valley. Anne Sullivan grew up in terrible poverty. Thomas Sullivan, her alcoholic father, listed his assets as \$100 in 1870, which is equivalent to \$1,984.11. One Mr. Moore, a farmer whose property lay at the intersection of Pine and South Westfield Streets, listed his assets as \$12,000, which now has the buying power of approximately \$238,092.82. Blogger Sara Campbell at the "Pioneer Valley History Network" speculates that the Sullivans may have been tenet-farmers for the Moore family considering that there seem to be no records indicating that they owned their own piece of land.

When disaster struck the Sullivans, it struck down hard and fast. At five years old, Anne Sullivan contracted a disease called trachoma, which is a condition caused by poor hygiene. This disease affected her eyes and effectively blinded her. That's right: Anne Sullivan, like Helen Keller, was also blind. She wasn't working with the Perkins School for the Blind out of some desire to help people that she saw as "less fortunate," like Alexander Graham Bell was. In fact, she wasn't working there at all: she was a student! When she was called upon to teach Helen Keller, she was the recently graduated Valedictorian who had left an incredible impression on her school's teachers. So, when the wealthy and elite Keller family needed a tutor for their daughter, they sent the best. Many people only think of blindness as "seeing

black," so to speak, but actually blindness encompasses a spectrum of experiences, which may range from "seeing black" to "seeing only light" or "seeing only shadows."

So, a five-year-old Anne Sullivan is all of a sudden blind. Three years later, two of the five Sullivan children succumbed to disease, and Anne's mother, Alice, who struggled with mobility issues, died from tuberculosis. Two years later, a 10-year-old Anne Sullivan and her younger brother James were sent away to the State Almshouse in Tewksbury, a grimey, overcrowded house for the impoverished. No one is entirely sure what happened to the last Sullivan child, a daughter named Mary, though the father was reported to have remained in Agawam long after giving up his children.

Have you ever seen the film adaptation of Oliver Twist? All the dirt-covered, bare-foot children begging for scraps of food, living in what was essentially a prison? That's essentially the place where Anne Sullivan came of age. Only Anne-- James died of an untreated hip ailment only three months after arriving at the Almshouse. So, Anne was alone, one of about 1,000 other sick and miserable people squeezed into a single filthy building. She was surrounded by death constantly, and to the young Anne it must've felt like she would inevitably meet her maker there, too. Luck came in the form of another blind person living at the Almshouse who told Anne about the Perkins School. The identity of this blind person has been lost to time, but I'm sure that Anne never forgot about them, because it was finding out that salvation may lie in getting an education for the first time in her life that motivated Anne to fight her way out of Tewksbury.

She bid her time. In 1880, when Anne was fourteen, a commission came to investigate the conditions at the Almshouse. Anne quietly followed the commission members around the building until there was a lull, during which she told a member of the inspection team named Franklin Benjamin Sanborn about her dream to acquire an education. A few months later, she was moved up to Watertown and formally became a student at Perkins. Though the constant lingering threat of death had at last been alleviated, a new anxiety replaced it: fitting in with her new peers. To a teenager, even one who has survived Hell like Anne, humiliation and social isolation can feel as grave as death itself. Most of her peers were wealthy, sheltered children who shunned the uneducated, thoroughly working-class Anne Sullivan. She was described as having the manners of a "heifer in the field" and lacked skills such as writing, sewing, and even brushing her own hair. Her maturity and street smarts carried her for the first few years until she was able to close the academic gap between herself and her peers. She never did close the social gap between herself and the Perkins community, but to do so she would have had to sacrifice her individuality, and she was unwilling to change herself for anyone's meager approval.

At Perkins, Sullivan met and befriended an elderly woman named Laura Bridgman who was the first deafblind person to learn language. Bridgman and Sullivan de-

veloped a unique and long-lasting friendship, as both were considered outcasts in the community. Bridgman taught the finger-spelling method of communication to Anne Sullivan that she would then teach to Helen Keller. When Anne initially arrived at the Keller house, she found herself at fiery odds with Helen's parents. Arthur Keller, Helen's father, was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War. Their wealth and elite status came from the fact that they owned an Alabama plantation and owned slaves only two years prior before the North's victory made abolished slavery. Anne Sullivan was a Northern girl who grew up outside of Springfield, which was, at the time, an abolitionist hub of the Northeast, so it goes without saying that she had strong moral objections to the Keller parents. Thankfully for Helen and the future of the disability advocacy community, she didn't hold that grudge against Helen, and the two quickly bonded.

It took merely six months for Helen to learn over five-hundred words using finger spelling, basic mathematics, and the ability to read Braille. Helen Keller would soon move up to Boston with Anne Sullivan to briefly attend the Perkins School for the Blind, though even after leaving the institution Helen and Anne chose to live out the rest of their lives in the North together. Throughout Helen Keller's impressive career, Anne Sullivan was always by her side-- not as a guide or as an aid, but as a devoted friend. Exempting one year where Sullivan was briefly married, the two women lived together until Anne's death. When Anne Sullivan took her last breath at the age of 70, it was Helen Keller holding her hand that time. Anne's often overshadowed story is one that exemplifies the importance of hope, perseverance, and finding community, and it's a story that should continue to inspire the people of her hometown.

Unique trees for seasonal color

We stayed home most of last weekend. By the time we got back into the car to head off to school, the hills were no longer shade of green, they were ablaze in all the familiar yellows, oranges, and reds produced by our cherished maple trees.

Some say the color is dull this year. I say I'll take what I can get. When everything else seems messed-up, at least we can count on the change of seasons. If you would like to add some unique color to your home landscape, consider planting one or more of the following lesser-known trees in your yard.

First of all, what causes leaves to change color? If you guessed that it has something to do with cooler weather and less hours of daylight you are correct. These cues cause trees to enter their dormant period. During dormancy the production of chlorophyll ceases (it is chlorophyll that gives vegetation its green color), allowing other color pigments in the leaf to become more prominent. Carotenoids are yellow and orange pigments, while anthocyanins are red and purplish. Brilliancy varies from season to season thanks to the weather, but as a general rule bright sunny days and cool nights make for great leaf peeping.

The first and most intriguing tree I'll mention is the ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba). This tree is a living artifact; fossil records date



GARDEN ■ page 6

SECURITY ■ from page 4

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. They look out for kids

4. Play

7. Water (French)

8. Prayer leader

10. Small constellation

12. ___ Carta: influential royal charter

13. Pressure unit

14. Extrasensory perception

16. A symbol of "Aloha"

17. Portion of the small intestine

19. Psychedelic amphetamine

20. Very long period of time

21. British overseas territory

25. Cereal grain

26. Car mechanics group

27. Wish harm upon

29. At a specific prior time

30. Peyton's younger brother

31. UK firefighters' union

32. Carroll O'Connor's screen partner

39. Popular show honoring musicians

41. Basics

42. Honk

43. Trent Reznor's band

44. Patti Hearst's captors

45. Long-legged wading bird

46. Specialized biological grouping

48. A coin goes in it

49. Of the wind

50. One-time measure of length

51. A very large body of water

52. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

1. Boston hoopster

2. A type of bribe

3. SE England county

4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

5. "Hotel California" rockers

6. Italian province

8. Mischievous child

9. Popular street name

11. Boxing promoter Bob

14. Snakelike fish

15. Break into pieces

18. The Bay State

19. Time zone

20. Port city in Yemen

22. In name only

23. 007's creator

24. No (Scottish)

27. Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two

28. Pie ___ mode

29. Don't know when yet

31. Supervises interstate commerce

32. Make a ringing metallic sound

33. Helps little firms

34. Pound

35. Lilly and Manning are two

36. Put on the back burner

37. Baltimore ballplayer

38. Cuddle

39. Poker stake

40. Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)

44. Pouch

47. Not around

GRANTS ■ from page 1

School Building Authority.

The grant funds, however, will come from the Green Communities grant program from the Department of Energy Resources. Agawam is a Green Community after meeting all the criteria to become a green community a few years ago. The designation opens the town up for funds like this on an ongoing basis.

The funds will be used for air handling unit filters and controls, LED lighting, and refrigeration upgrades at both schools.

This is the third grant award the town has received since 2017.

"We are very proud of the town's commitment to increasing energy efficiency in all town-owned buildings," said Mayor Sapelli. "Agawam High School and Junior High typically use more energy than any other town facilities; so we're particularly excited for this (grant) award."

All of the improvements cost more than \$320,000. The rest will be paid for in utility incentives. Sapelli notes in his press release the enormous amount of savings the town will see.

The Town estimates there will be \$57,000 in energy cost savings and will

save approximately 356,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. That could be compared to the annual electricity consumption of 42 homes or 32 million cell phones being charged.

"We hold our partnership with the Baker-Polito Administration in the highest regard," said Sapelli. "They understand the needs of municipalities and fund programs like Green Communities that make identifiable improvements to municipal budgets and quality of life."

The Green Communities grant awards have helped fund projects like electric vehicle charging stations. The town has seven such charging stations, recently installing four new ones thanks to some grant funding.

Sapelli did not say when the projects will be taking place. Projects like this are typically done during the summer months or during vacation breaks when students are not in school. The schools in Agawam are currently in partial use, with students attending school two days per week. Four days a week, approximately half of the schools' population is in attendance in the buildings.

Sports are also being practiced and played at Agawam High School

SOLDIERS ■ from page 1

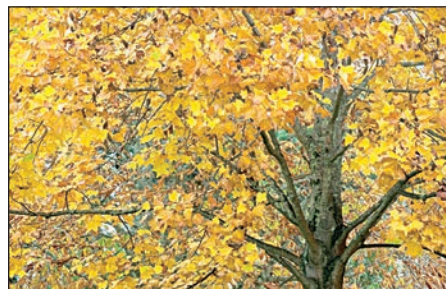
dropped and Bennett said in a statement Walsh would be focusing on being acquit-

ted of the criminal charges.

Clinton resigned back in June, as did Secretary of Veterans Affairs Francisco Urena.

**GARDEN ■ from page 6**

it back 200 million years ago! Recently, extracts of ginkgo have been touted to boost memory. Besides being tolerant of salt and smog, the tree has a nice shape, pyramidal when young and becoming more open and spreading with age. Unique fan-shaped leaves turn brilliant yellow in fall, and then, seemingly overnight, will all drop to the ground. Imagine, raking only once! Plant only male cultivars, as fruit produced by females is messy and stinky. 'Magyar' and 'Autumn Gold' are two such cultivars that mature to about 60 feet.



Another one of my favorite trees is the sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*). Supposedly, the sourwood gets its name from its acidic-tasting leaves that hunters would chew on to ward off thirst during long days spent in the woods. This eastern U.S. native is a tree for all seasons, but especially autumn. Lily of the valley-like flowers (fragrant, too) cover rich green foliage in summer. Foliage changes to yellow, red and purple in fall. Seedpods dangle from the tree even after leaves have dropped. The sourwood matures to a delicate 25 feet. Plant close-by to fully appreciate. I'll always remember that this tree was a favorite of my close friend and horticultural legend, Paul Rogers.



An additional small tree worthy of mention is the apple serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora*). Like the sourwood, this selection has multi-season interest. White flowers appear in spring before leaves are present. Orange and red fall foliage is especially noteworthy in a cultivar by the name of 'Autumn Brilliance'. Edible fruit persists only as long as you or birds allow it to. This native is best utilized in a naturalistic planting near the edges of woodlands or along stream banks. I hope that the beautiful rainbow of color outside of your door, be it muted or in bright hues, will be a promise of better days ahead.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

An even more majestic tree with desirable fall foliage is the tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). It is one of our tallest eastern American deciduous trees, reaching 190 feet in rare cases. At home, expect vigorous growth from 70 to 90 feet in height, with a spread of roughly half that. Give the tulip poplar lots of room and rich, moisture retentive soil. Mature trees flower in late spring; honey from cross-pollinating bees is reportedly superior in quality. Leaves turn a beautiful golden yellow in the fall. For a shorter version of this wonderful tree, plant the cultivar 'Fastigiatum'; it grows to around 50 feet and is more narrow in shape.

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SPORTS

Brownies win big in opener

HOLYOKE – The Agawam High School boys soccer team saw its first action in nearly a full year as the Brownies dominated Holyoke from the start for an 8-1 win. Vinny Romeo and Dylan Wesley had two goals each. The other goals came from Connor Twohig, Justin Davis, Jayden Montagna, and Nick Uschmann. Cohen Manekas and Josiah Bass-Collins had two assists each. The combination of Abdel Ebrahim and Jack Patterson allowed just one goal and made seven saves.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM
Jayden Montagna tries to track down the loose ball.



Josh Bouchard heads in a diagonal pattern before clearing the ball out.



William Balzano tries to keep the ball away from the sideline.



Colin Shlosser makes a sprint up the middle of the field.



Dylan Wesley winds up for a clearing kick.



Connor Twohig keeps his balance as he moves away from the sideline.



Joshua Priedenyuk pursues the ball for the Brownies.



Vinny Romeo outruns his opponent for the ball.

Geographic ‘bubbles’ adopted for fall

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – It seemed to work okay for Major League Baseball, and now the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference in Western Massachusetts and Mid-Wach League of Central Mass. are utilizing a similar strategy to limit travel for teams. High school fall sports will observe a similar limited travel schedule to that of the MLB as they go into “geographic” bubbles.

In Western Mass., due to the diversity of the area, the PVIAC has always made leagues based on a competitive balance. While you might see intermingling of the teams in Division 1, 2, 3, and 4, it is based on how good a team’s competition level is in a certain sport.

Now, there is still intermingling of divisions, but it is only based on the region and the pure geography of the area.

In many sports, the teams have been divided into four “bubbles.” They are Hampshire East and West, and Hampden East and West. Many of the Springfield teams have been placed into a bubble within the city due to the number of schools there.

The Hampden leagues consists mostly of the larger schools in the region as Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Minnechaug, Chicopee, and Chicopee Comprehensive are lumped into the Hampden East.

On the other side, the Hampden West features Westfield, Agawam, West Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, with smaller schools Southwick and Hampshire Regional lumped in.

Smaller schools are featured in the Hampshire West, with Gateway, Easthampton, Smith Vocational, St. Mary’s, Westfield Tech, and the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion School.

The Hampshire East is the largest and perhaps the most diverse league with South Hadley and Belchertown in a bubble with four smaller schools in Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder, and Ware, and Amherst as a major Division 1 outlier.

With teams playing schedules of 10 to 12 games, there are no games scheduled outside a respective bubble. This limits the interaction between schools and lengthy travel on buses where students are in closer contact.

There are some small exceptions, and they exist in field hockey and girls volleyball, where there are fewer teams in the region. However, the divisions are pretty similar. Field hockey has all the same teams in the Hampden West with the exception of Southwick, which is not playing field hockey.

Sports

Top racers preparing for World Series Modified

THOMPSON, Conn. – Some of the top open-wheel racers from throughout the Northeast are getting ready for two major open events as part of the 58th Annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. The Budweiser Modified Open and 350 Supermodified Open on Saturday, October 10 have big prizes up for grabs and big names ready to chase them.

The 75-lap open event for Tour-type Modifieds has more than \$26,000 in posted awards with \$5,000 for the winner. Notable Modified racers such as Eric Goodale, Chase Dowling, Jeff Gallup, and Mike Christopher Jr. are preparing their ground-pounders for one of the most anticipated events on the packed World Series schedule.

Of the early entries for the Budweiser Modified Open, Bethlehem, CT's Dowling might be the one to keep the closest eye on. The 22-year-old hot shoe is already a winner at Thompson Speedway in the Modified Racing Series at the 2019 Icebreaker.

Dowling also has victories with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, Tri-Track Open Modified Series, Modified Touring Series, and Stafford Motor Speedway SK Modifieds in his young career. For the Budweiser Modified Open, he will team with veteran car owner Jimmy Paige and his #00 Troyer machine. Dowling will also drive a NEMA Midget during the weekend, and says the Modified might feel like slow motion, compared to the winged midget around the .625-mile oval.

"We've been good at Thompson in the past few years, winning or finishing second," Dowling said. "But we've been struggling lately with Jimmy's car. The guys took the car apart, found a few things wrong with it and I think we will be good going back there. Thompson is its own character...

...the racing has been aggressive there lately, which is good for the fans. It creates a risk versus reward."

Riverhead, NY's Goodale comes into the Budweiser Modified Open on an upswing. The veteran recently won the pole for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event at Stafford, producing a much-needed highlight in a tough season. The multi-time NASCAR Modified winner has a career-best Thompson finish of third and looks to improve on that in his familiar #58.

The Mike Christopher Jr. entry is one of the most intriguing to date. Wolcott, CT's Christopher, the nephew of the all-time leading Thompson Speedway winner Ted Christopher, will drive for Tommy Baldwin Racing in the Budweiser Modified Open. The pairing of the second-generation racer and the Daytona 500-winning crew chief has run up front in the Stafford Open Modified series this year. Christopher has a Sunoco Modified win at Thompson and now is aiming for an even bigger score.

Agawam, MA's Jeff Gallup, Center Conway, NH's Andy Shaw, and Copiague, NY's Glen Steger are among the other Modified racers who have field entries. Gallup and Shaw are proven frontrunners in various touring Modified divisions while Steger is a longtime competitor in the local Sunoco Modifieds. The many rules options for the event allows these racers and many more to share the asphalt at America's oldest paved race track.

Several household names are also gearing up for the 30-lap, \$2,000-to-win 350 Small Block Supermodified Open. Two racers from Windham, ME, Bobby Timmons III and Brad Babb, have committed to the event.

Both had successful careers in Late Model and Super Late Model racing before transitioning to the Supermod-

ified ranks. Babb won the 2017 championship at Epping, NH's Star Speedway in his first Supermodified season. Timmons recently won the Star Mayor's Cup and was a top-5 finisher in the Star Classic.

Seabrook, NH's Rich Eaton is another noteworthy entry for the 350 Supermodifieds. Eaton is a winner at Star Speedway this year and scored a podium finish in the 2019 Oswego Classic at New York's Oswego Speedway.

Drivers can still enter both the Budweiser Modified Open and the 350 Supermodified Open. The entry forms and rules are available at www.thompsons Speedway.com, www.acttour.com/thompson-speedway(link is external), and www.proallstarseries.com(link is external).

These events are part of a 19-division card at the 58th Annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing. The three-day racing festival from Friday, October 9 to Sunday, October 11 also includes the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, ISMA Big Block Supermodifieds, ACT-type Late Model Open, NEMA Midgets, Street Stock Open, North East Mini Stock Tour and much more.

General admission at the Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing is \$55 for a three-day adult ticket and \$15 for kids ages 12 and under. Advance tickets can be purchased by visiting <https://happsnow.com/event/Thompson-Speedway-Motorsports-Park-YHPQ/WORLD-SERIES--NO2QX>(link is external). Pit passes will be sold at the track and are \$75 for adults and \$40 for kids ages 12 and under.

For more information about the Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing schedule, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.act-tour.com/thompson-speedway(link is external). You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

Help feature your student-athletes

The fall season is starting and Turley Publications is looking forward to getting back out on the field to bring you the high school action for all your favorite teams.

We know this fall season is important to many senior athletes, who watched Class of 2020 lose their entire spring season.

We're asking for help on this upcoming season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

AHL could begin play on Dec. 4

SPRINGFIELD – American Hockey League President and CEO Scott Howson has announced a revised start date for the 2020-21 AHL season, as approved by the league's Board of Governors during its 2020 Annual Meeting held today via conference call.

At the recommendation of the AHL's Return to Play Task Force, the Board of Governors has approved moving the anticipated start of the 2020-21 regular season to December 4, 2020, due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis. The AHL will continue to work with its member clubs to monitor developments and local guidelines in all 31 league cities.

Further details regarding the 2020-21 American Hockey League schedule are still to be determined.

In operation since 1936, the AHL serves as the top development league for all 31 National Hockey League teams. Nearly 90 percent of today's NHL players are American Hockey League graduates, and more than 100 honored members of the Hockey Hall of Fame spent time in the AHL in their careers.

BUBBLES ■ from page 7

Hampden East features Longmeadow, Minnechaug, East Longmeadow, Belchertown, South Hadley, and Amherst. Ludlow, Chicopee, and Chicopee Comprehensive do not have field hockey programs.

Girls volleyball has three bubbles.

Quabbin High School is in a Central Mass. bubble that includes Oakmont, Murdock, and Gardner among its opponents.

The fall season officially began last Thursday with limited action. Full game schedules were going on Monday. Springfield's schedule is postponed for now with the city being elevated to high-risk status. Communities in that status are not able to play any high school sports. Monson was in that status a few weeks ago, but was cleared before the season began.



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Schools & Youth

Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

Visiting College Representatives: If you are interested in meeting with College or University Representatives that will be conducting virtual visits at our school, you must sign up in Naviance at least one day in advance. Google Meet or Zoom links will be provided when you sign up.

- October 8:
7:30 AM College of the Holy Cross
8:25 AM Lasell University
9:20 AM Westfield State University
10:10 AM Roger Williams University
12:20 PM Western New England University
1:05 PM Bryant University
October 9:
7:30 AM St. Michael's College
8:25 AM Universal Technical Institute of MA
9:20 AM Springfield College
10:10 AM Endicott College
12:20 PM LeMoyne College
1:05 PM UCONN
Reminders:

Members of the Class of 2021 should familiarize themselves with the information that has been posted to the PostSecondary Planning section under the Counseling tab of the High School webpage. Most recently, the Senior College Application Packet was added, which is a great resource for students interested in applying to two- and four-year colleges. https://coredocs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/937652/Senior_Application_Packet_2020-2021.pdf

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you're headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can't access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Virtual College Fairs are coming soon! The fairs will be held on Oct. 12 (1 – 9 p.m.), Oct. 18 (12 – 8 p.m.), and Nov. 8 (2 – 10 p.m.). On each fair

date, more than 600 colleges and universities will offer Zoom sessions and meetings. Students everywhere can log in, drop in, and ask questions. Please register at virtualcollegefairs.org/events

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges' websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

Need to learn about financial aid? The trusted experts at MEFA (Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority) are hosting free college financing webinars four times per week beginning Monday, Sept 28 through Thurs, Nov 5. Webinars will be held every Monday through Thursday, with daytime and evening hours, and presented by industry experts, both from within MEFA and from colleges and organizations across Massachusetts. Register for a webinar at mefa.org/events.

Special Interest Programs:
It is not too late to STCC to your plan at Springfield Technical Community College! Classes are now forming for a start on Oct. 28 and will last for seven weeks. Learn more at stcc.edu/flex

Save the Date for Women of Distinction at Smith College. This is a program for high school seniors that highlights the opportunities at Smith for African American, Latina, Asian American, and Native American students. The dates of the virtual program are October 16-18, 2020. Admission is competitive, and applications are available at smith.edu/womendistinction-program.

Scholarship Information:
See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

AES Engineers: Is offering scholarships to motivated high school seniors to help in the furthering of their education. You are not required to be taking Engineering courses to be eligible. Visit aesengineers.com

com/scholarships.htm for more information. Award: \$500. Deadline: Oct. 5, 2020.

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC): This scholarship program offers students the opportunity to earn their degree and receive valuable leadership and management skills while enjoying the benefits of an exciting career. Several requirements exist. The deadline for submitting an application is December 31, 2020. Please visit public.navy.mil for details.

The 2020 Profile in Courage Essay will be offering a first-place prize of \$10,000, a second place prize of \$3,000, and \$1,000 for five finalists. The maximum word count is 1,000 with a minimum of 700, not including citations and bibliographies. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2021. More information is available at jfklibrary.org/essaycontest Tenaska, founded in 1987, is a privately held energy company committed to being good neighbors in the communities where its plants are located. To express that commitment, scholarships are offered through the high schools located in the counties with plant operations (Berkshire Power Company in our area). Applicants must be a 2021 graduating high school senior who plan to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution. The scholarship amount is \$1500, and applications, which are available at Tenaska.com/scholarship-form, are due no later than February 12, 2021.

The American College Foundation (ACF) is offering a Visionary Scholarship, with multiple winners selected to each receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The application process is quick and easy and financial need is not considered. All may apply. The application is available at AmericanCollegeFoundation.org and the deadline is May 1, 2021.

The creators of the "Student Award Search Aid" website are offering the B. Davis Scholarship for 2021. Please visit studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm to read about the program and to apply for the scholarship. The amount of the award is \$1,000 and the deadline is May 24, 2021.

ACC announces writing competition

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring a writing competition for all Agawam Public School students. The topic is "Facing the Challenges of the Coronavirus - How did you do it?" Entries will be accepted from Oct. 15 through Nov. 30, and the winners will be chosen by members of the Agawam Cultural Council. Monetary prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winning entries. The requirements for entry into this competition can be found on the ACC website and by contacting the librarians for each of the schools in Agawam. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Augusti at (413) 241-7196 or by email to: maryjane.augusti@gmail.com.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the current pandemic stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, at: www.agawamcc.org.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing via Zoom on **Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of 5 Star Logistics, Inc., which is seeking a special permit in accordance with Chapter 180, Section 55-B(30) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, to allow for a trucking business/terminal at the premises identified as 87 Ramah Circle South.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96219125707?pwd=VzlvdktyMWVNeTdOWGhLM3o4R1BEZz09>

Meeting ID: 962 1912 5707

Passcode: 982834

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,96219125 707# US (New York) 13017158592,,96219125707# US +(Germantown)

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam
Zoning Board of Appeals
10/01, 10/08/2020

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD
The Agawam Planning

Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM** to hear the petition of Agawam Mayor William P. Sapelli on a proposed Zoning Amendment entitled "Accessory Apartments". Due to the COVID -19 restrictions, the meeting will be held **remotely** through Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85095324641?pwd=ZERXUVJQaUo5eGx1Mm9wQ1BaQW12Zz09>

Webinar ID: 850 9532 4641, Passcode: 917390. Copies of the proposal can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office at pkerr@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:

Mark R. Paleologopoulos,
Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
10/01, 10/08/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P1680EA
Estate of:
Jane A. Nunn
Also Known As:
Jane E. Nunn
Date of Death:
July 23, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Sarah J. Nunn** of Raynham MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Sarah J. Nunn of Raynham MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the

Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

10/08/2020

Agawam Advertiser News

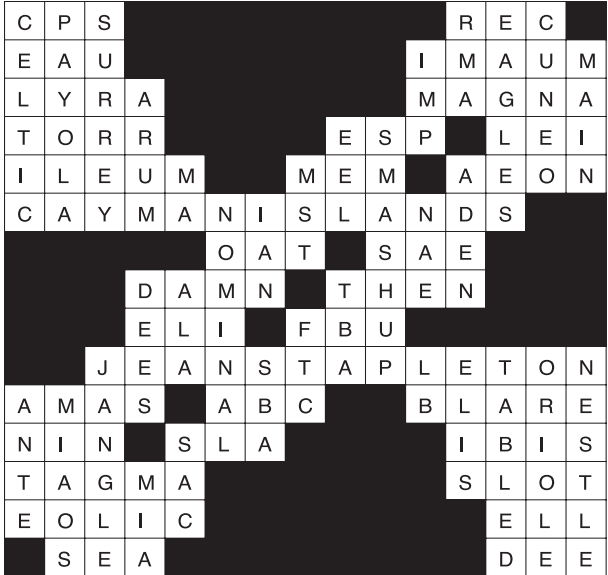
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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Ron **(413)896-3324**

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ABSENTEE & LIVE SUPERB ESTATES AUCTION To be held at Wintergarden Farm under Tent October 10th @ 10:00AM 359 Stafford Rd., (Rt 32) in Monson near the CT/MA State line.
Estates from East Windsor, CT., Suffield, CT., Wilbraham, MA., and Worcester, MA.
PREVIEW & TO LEAVE BIDS on Wednesday October 7th through Friday October 9th 10:00AM to 4:00PM daily each day & morning of sale. Hope to see you! We are adhering to Massachusetts State Requirements of 6' distancing & only 50 seats & people allowed. Masks are required. We're strongly encouraging absentee bids (see times to view & leave bids). Reservations for seats are necessary. Sale to include Early & Period Furniture, Victorian/Vintage Furniture, accessories of all types, Paintings & Prints, Pottery, Porcelain, Glass & China, Rugs, Sterling Silver, Cast Iron Toy & Door Stop Collection, Important Trains, Toys & Dolls, Textiles & many other items of interest. **TERMS:** Cash or approved check. Everything sold as is. A buyers premium of 15% will be applied to all purchases, payable by the buyer, as part of the purchase price. We accept Visa, MC and Discover with an 18% buyers premium. Bring Chairs!!!!

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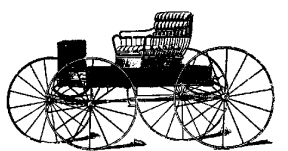
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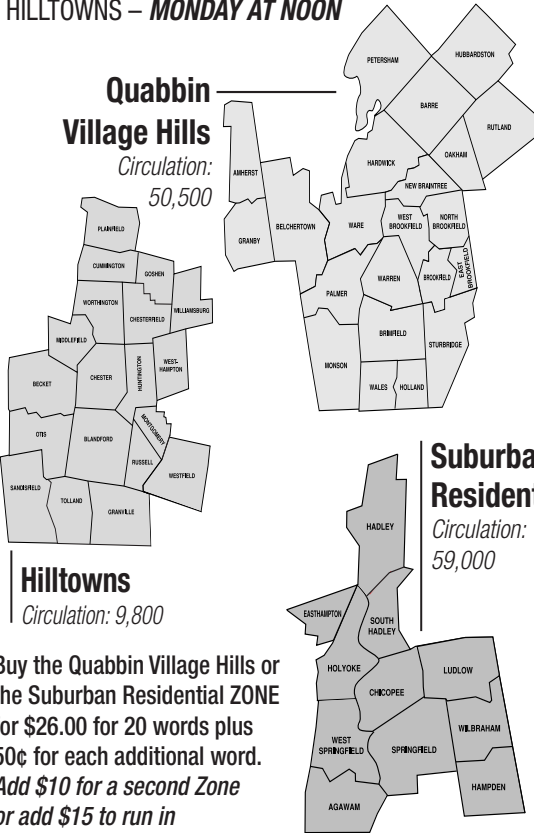
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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 18th.

Deadline for submissions is October 22nd.

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

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Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

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Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.**

ANIMALS ■ from page 7

outcome and a few families stayed behind to speak with Father Amo. He mentioned that they had to adjust mass times, and they had to adjust to wearing masks and keeping socially distant during mass. The church is live streaming during each mass, though Father Amo explained that the church misses their regular members.

“We miss seeing people fill up the church, though socially distant as we are adhering to the new regulations,” Father Amo said. “The church relies on the parishioners and their donations, it’s important for people to continue to visit the church and get back into a routine. Make sure that you’re staying well, washing your hands, staying distant, but also keeping up your routines as visiting the church when were open.”

The Sacred Heart Parish is holding Weekday Masses on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday at 9 a.m. The church also holds Lord’s day masses on Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.

“Our audience is coming back slowly, and we know we have to work to make them feel safe again amongst the epidemic,” Father Amo said.



Father Steve Amo blesses a pet at the Sacred Heart Parish parking lot.



Father Steve Amo of Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills goes around a socially distant group of pets to sprinkle holy water on each pet. PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



Father Steve Amo stays to speak with families.



Mary and Ed Paprocki brought their dogs Riley and Lucky to be blessed.



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